

**Tucson-Pima County
Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 10, 2008
Himmel Park Library, 1035 Treat Avenue
6:00 p.m.
Submitted by Karen Berchtold**

1. Call to Order, introductions and approval of November minutes.

At 6:08 p.m., a quorum being present, Chairperson Brian Beck called the meeting to order.

Chairperson Beck asked if any changes were requested to the minutes. None were requested. A motion to approve the minutes with the suggested changes was made by David Bachman-Williams and seconded by Charles Franz. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Call to Public.

Glen James McKenzie introduced himself, and informed the group that he had not seen the BAC website updated in several months, which is maintained by the County. It would help in keeping the public abreast of BAC happenings.

Marcos Esparza recalled the recent death of a youth who was bicycling on Mountain Avenue at Fort Lowell. He asked the Committee what can be done to decrease the possible recurrence of such a tragedy. Eric Post, BAC Enforcement Committee Chair, said that Subcommittee would review the incident report. Mr. Esparza was invited to attend the Enforcement and Subcommittee meetings.

Ted Kandell, Keeling Neighborhood Association bicycle representative, asked if any projects are in the works to improve bicycle safety at railroad crossings.

Tony Crosby, BAC member, informed the group the State Land Trust Bureau has increased fees for access to State Land. These fees apply to public use of State Land for recreation, such as Fantasy Island. Rates for families and individuals have gone up, and group rides will require both group and individual permits.

Roy Schoonover informed the group that Richard DeBernardis of Perimeter Bicycling Association of America gave a presentation to the Tucson City Council Committee asking for support of the group's request for about ten acres of land at Udall Park for the proposed Velodrome. The Committee gave unanimous support, and the request is scheduled to go to the City Council in January or February.

3. Law Enforcement and Enforcement Subcommittee Reports

Eric Post informed the group that the Enforcement Committee is ready to begin an intensive review of bicycle accident reports of the last several years. He asked for volunteers to assist.

Also, he acknowledged that law enforcement representatives have not been attending BAC meetings to provide updates. This may be due to the fact that the Enforcement Committee no longer meets before the regular BAC meeting. Eric will follow up.

4. Transportation Enhancements (TE) Program Overview

John, Liosatos, Pima Association of Government (PAG), provided an overview of this program. PAG's role is to help jurisdictions secure project funding, whereas the jurisdictions build and implement projects. He distributed an informative handout that included a description of what TE's are, what is involved in the application process, and the annual PAG TE program submittal schedule.

The program provides federal funding for community projects that enhance and expand travel choices, and generally enhance the transportation experience. Out of twelve categories of projects, all except one, scenic or historic easements and sites, may be used in Arizona. The eleven categories include a diversity of projects, from the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum to the Snake and Basket Bridges in near downtown Tucson.

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) administers the program. In Pima County, PAG administers the process. The submittal process is highly competitive. To initiate the process, PAG provides a pre-application form. PAG reviews those for eligibility and provides feedback. Next, the local jurisdiction determines what projects they will sponsor: all projects must be sponsored by a jurisdiction. The applicant works with sponsor to complete a draft project application. These are reviewed and ranked by a Transportation Enhancement Task Force (TETF), composed of community members from diverse stakeholder groups. The task force provides comments for improving the application, and the highest ranking move forward. Applications are revised and submitted again to the Transportation Enhancements Review Committee (TERC), which provides project funding recommendations that are forwarded to the Arizona State Transportation Board for review/action. Awards are made in November or December. Zach MacDonald is the BAC representative to the TERC.

John presented a summary of TE projects, which is also on the PAG website. To advance a TE project, it is first critical to enlist neighborhood support. One challenge is that TE projects are limited to \$500,000, so more expensive projects may need to be phased. Also, by the time a TE award is granted, cost may have increased substantially causing the project to be scaled back. PAG staff support a funding limit increase to \$750,000.

Brian Beck asked if it is better to work through jurisdictions, or individually. John responded that typically through jurisdictions is better, and particularly early in the process. Grassroots efforts with a cohesive vision and with much support can gain momentum. Roy Schoonover said that based on his experience, persistence is a key factor in advancing TE projects, as it takes several attempts before getting funded sometimes.

Brian Beck asked Tom Thivener, TDOT, how the City generates TE project ideas. Tom responded that while the City sometimes instigates project ideas, most new project ideas come from the public. To have a competitive application, the community group applying needs "champions" – individuals who can write the grant and to work with neighbors to

develop a cohesive vision. City staff are more or less there to make sure the project is feasible, to provide technical expertise, and to shepherd the application through the TE process.

BAC members thanked John for his time and for his informative presentation.

5. 22nd Street Bicycle Lanes

Roger Carrillo asked if the BAC has considered how to create more parity between the recommendations for facilities provided in the diverse corridor plans underway in the region.

David Bachman-Williams attended a Tucson Council meeting, and expressed support for the bicycle facilities proposed for the 22nd Street Corridor plan. The plan is including more context sensitive elements, such as 11 foot wide travel lanes, and 6 foot wide bicycle lanes. The wider bike lanes may provide some protection for cyclists on roadways where the speed is greater than 40 mph, causing substantially more serious bicyclist injury.

David proposed the BAC send a letter of thanks to Council members Leal and Trasoff for their support.

Brian Beck suggested that the BAC may wish to endorse the concept of 11 foot wide lanes for high speed roadways, and will compose a draft letter.

6. Mission Peaks Development: Bicycle Facilities

Larry Robinson, Chair, Facilities Subcommittee, distributed a draft letter regarding a large scale residential development (15,000 homes) proposed for Mission Peaks. He expressed his opinion that the scale of this development may strain existing roadway infrastructure in the vicinity. In particular, the traffic increase is likely to impact cyclist safety and enjoyment.

Brian Beck noted that it is early in the process, and it is possible the area may be annexed by Sahuarita.

Larry made a motion to approve a draft letter expressing concerns that would be signed by the BAC, rather than Facilities Subcommittee. Josefina Ahumada seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. Subcommittee Reports

Executive:

Work is beginning on the new Platinum Challenge application. Gabe Thum, PAG, is reviewing American League of Bicyclists comments from the previous application. All subcommittees will be assigned tasks.

Education/Outreach:

No update.

Facilities:

Larry Robinson, Chair, said the group is busy and looking for new volunteers. The group meets the second to last Wednesday each month.

Downtown:

David Bachman-Williams, Chair, said the group reviewed and endorsed plans for a bicycle/pedestrian trail on A Mountain.

John Murphy, Keeling Neighborhood Association, noted that he has observed that the City street sweeping is inadequate, posing a detriment to cyclists in spots.

Roy Schoonover said he met with Pima County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry to discuss the Los Rio del Pueblo and got some good feedback. They discussed how various County projects will fit into the regional bicycle ring, and Flood Control staff also was present.

Richard DeBernardis was also present and discussed strategy for requesting Pima County Bond funds for the proposed Velodrome. Mr. Huckelberry suggested a committee could be formed to raise two million, with three million requested from the County. At present, the bond vote could be in fall 2009 but the date is not yet determined.

8. Staff Reports

Tom Thivener circulated a proposed design for a bike box on Highland Avenue near 6th Street. The concept was endorsed by the Downtown / University BAC subcommittee and will be installed in January 2009.

Kevin McDonald asked if the boxes are implemented, would police be out there to enforce it. Charles Franz, U of A's BAC representative, said the University strongly supports the use of bike boxes and that U of A Police will help to educate motorists in the early goings.

Gabe Thum provided an update on the RTA Bike/Pedestrian Workgroup. The group has approved eleven projects, three in Pima County, seven in Tucson and one in Sahuarita. One of the projects approved was for a 4th Avenue Bicycle Boulevard.

PAG staff responded to requests from the BAC and others to increase funding for the RTA Bike/Ped projects to three million (from 2.5 million), due to increased construction costs.

Update from annual bicycle count:

- Over 8,300 cyclists daily, as noted at over fifty-three locations.
- AM/PM split was pretty even.
- Initial results: 75% male, 46% wear helmets, 5% ride the wrong way, and 9% ride on the sidewalk.

Gabe's said his role at PAG is evolving to include more transit work. Ann Chanecka, PAG Transportation Planner, will be assisting with his bike duties more.

Members agreed to send a card on behalf of the BAC to Steve Anderson, long-term Pima County Trails Planner, who is recuperating at home.

9. Announcements

Josefina Ahumada, BAC member, said there will be an open house on the El Paso and Southwestern Greenway at the University of Arizona Service Center next Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 6:00 p.m.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Attendance:

Dave Boston	Tony Crosby
Kevin McDonald	Josefina Ahumada
Eric Post	David Bachman-Williams
Diana Tolton	Karen Berchtold
Zach MacDonald	Evan Unger
Charles Franz	Larry Robinson
Bruce Hermes	Norm Land
Tina Roose	Walter Rogers
James McKenzie	Marcos Esparza
John Liosatos	Gabe Thum
Tom Thivener	Collin Forbes
Ted Kandell	John Murphy
Roy Schoonover	Brian Beck